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PROGRAM Barry Gray Show

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BARRY GRAY: My guest now is Mr. Peter Maas, author of "The Valachi Papers" published in paperback by Bantam, and he's written a marvelous article which is about the Carmine De Sapio trial, called "A Classic Case of Bribery and Corruption." I believe the book is on the newstands now.

PETER MAAS: Yes, it is, Barry, as a matter of fact.

GRAY: Peter, begin at the beginning, like Alice in Wonderland. . Why is it a classic case?

MAAS: Well, because it has all the elements. It's got the politician, who is De Sapio. It has the mobster, a man named Tony Corallo, Tony "Ducks" Corallo, and it has the businessman, the wealthy businessman, the respectable businessman, a man named Henry Freed(?). And the three of them together put together this shakedown of the Consolidated Edison Company of New York, who is - the shakedown was a kind of a willing - in my opinion, the Con Ed people really had had a tradition of playing politics, bribery, money and so on and so forth, wasn't a far-out target.